

# The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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JOYCE A. SPRATT  
MAYOR  
JOHN H. AVERY  
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR  
ROBERT MERRIKEN  
ATTORNEY

COUNCIL MEMBERS  
CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.  
PARKER J. DURHAM  
BONNIE FRANZ  
EARL H. MURPHY  
JERRY L. RHUE, SR.

## MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING April 27, 2015 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Spratt called the meeting of April 27, 2015, to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Hurlock Town Office located at 311 Charles Street. Following the Pledge of Allegiance Councilman Charles Cephas said the opening prayer. The roll call was then taken. Those in attendance were: Council members Jerry Rhue, Charles Cephas, Earl Murphy, Attorney Robert Merriken, Mayor Joyce Spratt, and Administrator John Avery. Council woman Franz was absent.

Councilman Murphy made a Motion to approve the Agenda with two changes. One change was to move item 11A to the 6A spot on the Agenda. The second change was to move the Veterans Memorial presentation under Old Business. With these changes, Councilman Rhue seconded the Motion. With no discussion and no one opposed, the Motion to approve the agenda was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0.

There were no minutes to vote on at the meeting.

**Chesapeake Utilities** – Daryl Wilson and Greg Dentson, representatives from Chesapeake Utilities were introduced. A follow up presentation was given regarding Natural Gas. The last presentation was given last November. A Franchise was done with the Town in 2011 for Amick Farms and B&G. There was some interest shown at that time in the Town. Chesapeake Utilities is overseen by the Public Service Commission. There was a large expansion recently in Delaware. The necessary steps for expansion were explained to the Council and the audience. A questionnaire was introduced at the November 12, 2014 meeting, and information was mailed to citizens for them to respond if they were/were not interested in obtaining Natural Gas. There were approximately 40 responses of interest that was spread out around the Broad/Main Street area. It was explained that it would require a significant investment to obtain the Natural Gas. Another survey would be recommended in the next 6-12 months.

There was some discussion and questions regarding what need to be done to obtain Natural Gas for residents and businesses in the Town.

Mr. Frank Bittner spoke about a rumor that converting to natural gas could cost \$126,000.00. This rumor is untrue. Mr. Bittner stated the Town is being asked for funding to install the pipes.

Council man Murphy added that you have to look at how to get natural gas downtown realistically. There was more discussion from the Mayor and Council man Cephas about how to do this feasibly.

Attorney Bob Merriken asked if Chesapeake Utilities could canvass a small business area. The answer to that was that it has been done elsewhere. There was more discussion.

**Mayor's Report** – Administrator Avery and Mayor Spratt toured Amick Farms on Friday and stated it was very interesting.

The Town has received a \$38,000.00 grant from the Parks and Playgrounds.

The Town needs to look into a urination ordinance that was started before. The Council agreed to go forward. Council man Rhue stated the police officers need to have what they need to do their jobs properly. Attorney Merriken stated the Ordinance was already drafted.

The fund raiser for the Hutton family was sold out. 300 tickets were sold. The fundraiser is to be held at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Over 100 items will be auctioned off. The Hutton family is very appreciative. Captain Mike Henry has been handling the duties of the Chief of Police during Chief Hutton's absence.

**County Council man Rick Price Report** – Council man Price reported from the last County Council Meeting. (Please see attached report) There will be a meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:55 p.m. to discuss the proposed vertical expansion at the Land fill. The State Sprinkler System Law would have to be adhered to. Mayor Spratt asked if another extension would be obtained.

Council man Price said he didn't think so. Council man Cephas spoke about housing assistance to purchase a first house for police. DHCD has a program, but Dorchester County does not partner with them. There are grants available for affordable housing. Developments should have houses for moderate income. The Mayor asked Council man Cephas to meet with the County Council regarding this issue. By the end of May an entire housing study will be complete. There was more discussion.

**Police Report** - A report from the police department was given on the number of violations. (Stats unavailable)

**Fire Department** – The Hurlock Fire Department has been very busy. (Stats unavailable)

**Veterans Memorial Park** – Mr. Frank Fraley presented a location for the memorial park; the lot

by the Train Station. Council men Cephas and Rhue said a survey would have to be completed. It was stated that Jason Loar of DB&F would do the survey at no charge. Mrs. Faye Fraley asked if the Town could establish a foundation.

Council man Murphy asked for the committee to stand and be recognized.

**Comments –**

**Council Comments –** Council man Rhue stated he felt the Memorial Park would be a great benefit to the Town.

Council man Murphy thanked the Memorial Committee.

Council man Cephas said he was disturbed about the recent happenings in Baltimore. He felt the police are the line between chaos and people's lives. He is praying that the mean spirit in the nation will stop. Council man Cephas stated he hopes the Eastern Shore can be a model and asked that everyone pray.

Mayor Spratt announced that on Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup> a Public Hearing will be held for rezoning properties on Main Street.


The Mayor spoke about a lady named Miss Rhoda Palmer who just turned 96.

There being no further business or discussion, Council man Cephas made a Motion to adjourn the meeting of April 27, 2015. Council man Murphy seconded the Motion. With all in favor and no one opposed, the Motion was passed and carried with a vote of 3-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Approved: Respectively submitted,

  
John Avery  
Clerk/Treasurer

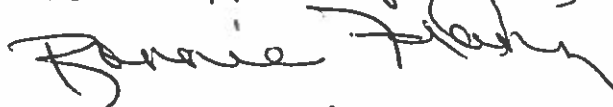
Mayor Spratt:

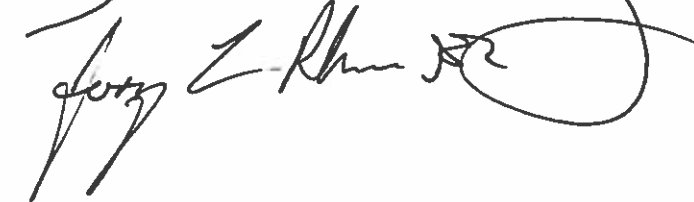


Council members:

  
Charles Cephas

  
Earl H. Murphy

  
Bonnie Fraley

  
George L. Rhue